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Atty. Docket: NTI / 203

Applicant: Tejaswi Vishwamitra

Title: RECONFIGURABLE SPEAKER SYSTEM

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL - 37 CFR 1.10

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Heath R. Bandy
 By: Heath R. Bandy (person mailing paper)

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

This is a request for filing, under 37 CFR § 1.53(b), a(n):

- ☒ **Original (non-provisional) application.**
- ☐ Divisional of prior application Serial No. __, filed on __.
- ☐ Continuation of prior application Serial No. __, filed on __.
- ☐ Continuation-in-part of prior application Serial No. __, filed on __.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT/CALCULATION OF FEES

- ☐ Please cancel claims __ without prejudice, and prior to calculating the fees. __ total claim(s), of which __ is(are) independent, is(are) pending after the amendment.
- ☐ Please enter the enclosed preliminary amendment identified below prior to calculating the fees. __ total claim(s), of which __ is(are) independent, is(are) pending after the amendment.

☒ The Fees are Calculated as Follows:

Fee:	Number of Claims:	In Excess of:	Extra:	At Rate:	Amount:
Total Claims	25	20	5	\$18	\$90.00
Independent Claims	5	3	2	\$78	\$156.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM FEE					
BASIC FEE					\$760.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS					\$1,006.00
REDUCTION BY 50% FOR FILING BY SMALL ENTITY					
TOTAL					\$1,006.00

ENCLOSURES

- ☒ **Utility Patent Application Transmittal Form (in duplicate) containing Certificate of Mailing By Express Mail Under 37 CFR 1.10.**
- ☒ **Return Postcard.**

APPLICATION PAPERS

- ☒ **Utility Patent Application, with: cover sheet, 30 page(s) specification (including 25 total claim(s), of which 5 is(are) independent), and 1 page(s) abstract.**
- ☒ **Drawings: 3 sheet(s) of formal drawings (5 total figure(s)).**
 - ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix).
 - ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence, including (all are necessary): Computer Readable Copy, Paper Copy (identical to computer copy), and Statement verifying identity of copies.
- ☒ **An Executed Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition Form.**
 - ☐ Copy of Executed Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition Form from prior application identified above.
 - ☐ Certified Copy of priority document(s) identified as attached above.

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

- ☒ **Assignment to NuTone Inc., Recordation Cover Sheet (Form PTO-1595)**
 - ☐ Verified Statement to Establish Small Entity Status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27.
 - ☐ Preliminary Amendment (to be entered prior to calculation of fees)
 - ☐ Information Disclosure Statement, sheet(s) Form PTO-1449, U.S. Patent Reference(s), Foreign Patent Reference(s) and Other Reference(s)
 - ☐ Other:

CHECKS

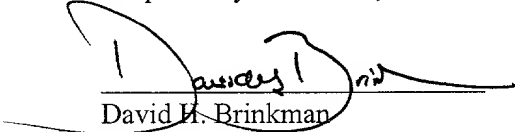
- ☒ **A Check of \$1,006.00 for the filing fee.**
- ☒ **A Check of \$40.00 for the assignment recording fee.**

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-3000 in the amount of .
- ☒ **The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3000. A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.**
- ☐ **THE PAYMENT OF FEES IS BEING DEFERRED.**

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APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

Applicant: Tejaswi Vishwamitra

Title: RECONFIGURABLE SPEAKER SYSTEM

Assignee: NuTone Inc.

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SPECIFICATION

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RECONFIGURABLE SPEAKER SYSTEM

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to sound reproduction systems and, more particularly, to a speaker system and method for producing sound in response to an audio signal generated by an audio source.

Background of the Invention

Various speaker systems have been designed in the past to handle a wide range of acoustic needs. For example, when high-fidelity sound reproduction is not critical, a speaker may be designed with only one audio driver or speaker cone so that all of the high, midrange and low audio frequencies are handled by the single speaker. Unfortunately, single cone speakers, referred to as wide range speakers, tend to exhibit some distortion since a small speaker cone will generally handle high frequencies well, while a large speaker cone is typically better suited to handle the lower frequencies. Thus, a wide

range speaker is generally not well adapted to reproduce the full frequency spectrum of audio information with high-fidelity. Rather, the higher or lower frequency range is reproduced with more quality as a function of the speaker cone size.

5 To overcome this problem, high-fidelity speakers are designed to include two or more speaker cones in the speaker. In a two-way speaker, for example, a small tweeter reproduces the high frequencies, and a relatively large woofer handles the low frequencies. In a three-way speaker, a third or midrange speaker cone is added to
10 improve coverage of middle frequencies between the highs of the tweeter and the lows of the woofer. A crossover network or special filtering circuit is generally used to separate the audio signal frequencies and feed them to the appropriate high, low or midrange audio driver in the speaker.

15 Additionally, depending on the specific acoustic needs of the listener, one, two or four speakers may be required to reproduce the desired audio program. For example, when high-fidelity sound reproduction is desired from both right and left channel audio signals of a stereo system, two speakers are connected to the stereo system to
20 produce a true stereo acoustic environment. In particular, a true stereo system uses two independent speakers with each speaker reproducing

one or the other of the right and left channel audio information. In this way, right channel audio information is reproduced by one speaker along a right audio axis while left channel audio information is reproduced by the other speaker along a left audio axis to produce a true stereo effect to the listener.

In some rooms however, such as in a confined bathroom or attic for example, it may be difficult to use two independent speakers to reproduce the right and left channel audio information. In such cases, a single speaker may be used which is connected to only one of the right or left audio channels of the audio source. Thus, while the single speaker is able to reproduce sound within the room, the reproduced audio program is less than ideal as the audio information from one or the other of the right and left audio channels is missing entirely from the audio program.

To address this problem, dual voice coil speakers have recently been developed that include a single speaker cone with a pair of independent voice coils to drive the single cone. The dual voice coil speaker is designed so that both of the right channel and left channel audio signals are handled separately by the independent voice coils so that none of the audio information is discarded or sacrificed by the speaker. The right and left channel audio signals are mixed within the

single speaker so that right and left channel audio programs are simultaneously reproduced by the single speaker. Unfortunately, however, dual voice coil speakers suffer from the same drawbacks of any wide range speaker in that the single speaker cone is not well suited to reproduce all of the frequencies very well. Thus, while all of the right and left channel audio information is simultaneously reproduced by the single speaker, the reproduced audio program is considerably less than high-fidelity. Moreover, dual voice coil speakers are designed only for mixing right and left channel audio signals, and their design prohibits them from being used in a true stereo environment in which two speakers are connected to an audio source to independently reproduce the right and left audio information. Thus, dual voice coil speakers generally have a very limited application to single speaker acoustic environments.

Thus, there is a need for a speaker system that is well suited to handle a wide range of audio frequencies and reproduce an audio program with high-fidelity. There is also a need for a speaker system that reproduces an audio program without significant distortion or loss of audio information. There is also a need for a speaker system that is versatile for use in a wide range of acoustic environments in which a single or multiple speakers may be required.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention overcomes the foregoing and other shortcomings and drawbacks of speaker systems and methods for reproducing sound in response to an audio signal generated by an audio source heretofore known. While the invention will be described in connection with certain embodiments, it will be understood that the invention is not limited to these embodiments. On the contrary, the invention includes all alternatives, modifications and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

In particular, the speaker system of the present invention is reconfigurable by a user for producing sound in response to at least one of right and left channel audio signals generated by an audio source. The speaker system can be configured by the user to simultaneously reproduce right and left channel audio information from a single speaker, or the speaker system can be configured to reproduce right and left channel audio information independently from a pair of speakers.

The speaker system of the present invention includes a dual voice coil woofer and a pair of independent tweeters. A switch device is provided in circuit with the dual voice coil woofer and pair of tweeters so that in one position of the switch device, the dual voice coil

woofer is configured to produce sound in response to both of the right and left channel audio signals coupled to the speaker system, and each independent tweeter in the tweeter pair is configured to produce sound in response to a respective one of the right and left channel audio

5 signals. In a second position of the switch device, the dual voice coil woofer is configured to produce sound in response to only one of the right and left channel audio signals coupled to the speaker system, and both of the tweeters are configured to produce sound in response to same right or left channel audio signals as the woofer.

10 In particular, the reconfigurable speaker system of the present invention includes two pairs of audio input terminals that are each adapted to receive respective right and left channel audio signals from respective right and left audio channels of the audio source. In those environments where only one speaker system is to be used, such
15 as in a confined bathroom space or attic for example, the two pairs of audio input terminals of the speaker system are electrically coupled to the respective left and right audio signals of the audio source. The switch device is moved by the user to an "open" position so that in this configuration of the speaker system, left channel audio information is
20 reproduced by one voice coil within the dual voice coil woofer and one of the pair of independent tweeters, while right channel information is

reproduced by the second voice coil within the dual voice coil woofer and the second independent tweeter. In this configuration, the speaker system is configured to reproduce a complete left and right audio program from a single speaker so audio information is not discarded or
5 sacrificed by the speaker system during the sound reproduction.

Where sufficient space exists for a pair of speaker systems in a true stereo acoustic environment, a pair of speaker systems are coupled to the audio source to independently reproduce right and left audio information along separate right and left audio axes. For true
10 stereo environments, the switch device of each speaker system is moved to a "closed" position and each speaker system is independently coupled to only one of the right or left channel audio signals of the audio source. In this second configuration, left channel audio information is reproduced by both voice coils of the dual voice coil
15 woofer and the pair of tweeters of the left speaker, while right channel audio information is reproduced by both voice coils of the dual voice coil woofer and the pair of tweeters of the right speaker.

In this way, the speaker system of the present invention is well suited to handle a wide range of audio frequencies and reproduce
20 an audio program with high-fidelity through the use of the dual voice coil woofer and pair of independent tweeters. When only one speaker

system is coupled to the audio source, none of the audio information from the right and left channels is sacrificed or discarded so that a good quality audio program with right and left channel audio information can be reproduced by the single speaker. Moreover, the speaker system is
5 versatile for use in a wide range of acoustic environments in which a single or multiple speakers may be required.

The above and other objects and advantages of the present invention shall be made apparent from the accompanying drawings and the description thereof.

10 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and, together with a general description of the invention given above, and the detailed description of the embodiments given
15 below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

Fig . 1 is an exploded perspective view of a reconfigurable speaker system in accordance with the principles of the present invention illustrating mounting of the speaker system in a wall;

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic rear view of the speaker system
20 shown in Fig. 1 coupled to an audio source;

Fig. 2A is a schematic of the speaker system shown in Fig. 2 coupled to the audio source;

Fig. 3 is a rear view similar to Fig. 2 illustrating a pair of speaker systems coupled to an audio source; and

5 Fig. 3A is a view similar to Fig. 2A showing one of the speaker systems of Fig. 3 coupled to the audio source.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

With reference to the figures, a reconfigurable speaker system 10 is shown in accordance with the principles of the present invention. As used herein, the term "reconfigurable" is used to describe that in one user selected configuration, speaker system 10 is configured for use as a single speaker with an audio source 12 as shown in Figs. 2 and 2A. In this first configuration, speaker system 10 is connected to the left and right audio channels 14a and 14b, respectively, of the audio source 12 to reproduce both left and right audio information from the same single speaker system 10 as will be described in detail below. In a second user selected configuration, each speaker system 10 of a speaker pair is configured for use as an independent right or left speaker in a true stereo environment. In this second configuration, one speaker system 10 is connected to the left audio channel 14a of the audio source 12 to reproduce left channel audio information, while the

right speaker system 10 is connected to the right audio channel 14b to reproduce right channel audio information from audio source 12 as described in detail below.

In one embodiment of the present invention as shown in Fig. 1, speaker system 10 is constructed to be mounted in a wall 16 or other structure that is conventionally used to support a speaker. Speaker system 10 is electrically coupled to the audio source 12, such as a stereo amplifier, through one or two pairs of twin-conductor speaker wires 18a, 18b (one pair shown in Fig. 1) as will be described in detail below. Speaker system 10 includes a pair of high frequency audio drivers or tweeters 20a, 20b and a single low frequency audio driver or woofer 22 that are each mounted in a conventional manner to a baffle 24. Each audio driver 20a, 20b is preferably a 3/4" titanium dome tweeter having a ferrofluid cooled neodymium magnet, and the tweeters 20a, 20b are preferably mounted to swivel relative to the baffle 24 in a conventional manner to permit the user to adjust the direction of the high frequency audio information generated by the pair of tweeters 20a, 20b. The audio driver 22 is preferably a 6-1/2" woofer having a polyesterine cone. Of course, other sizes and types of woofers and tweeters are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Speaker system 10 further includes a mounting

frame 26 that permits the speaker to be securely positioned in a wall cut-out 28 with one or both pairs of speaker wires 18a, 18b (one pair shown in Fig. 1) extending into a cavity 30 behind the wall 16. A mesh grill 32 is provided to cover the speaker system 10 after it has been mounted in the wall cut-out 28 to provide an aesthetic appearance or finish to the speaker.

In the acoustic environment illustrated in Figs. 2 and 2A, speaker system 10 is configured by the user for use as a single speaker in a confined space, such as in a bathroom or attic, where it may not be feasible to mount a pair of speakers for true stereo sound reproduction. To this end, speaker system 10 includes two pairs of audio input terminals 34a, 34b that are each adapted to receive respective left and right channel audio signals 36a, 36b from the left and right audio channels 14a, 14b of audio source 12 through the respective pairs of twin-conductor speaker wires 18a, 18b. Audio input terminals 34a, 34b are preferably push-in type electrical connectors conventionally used in speakers and are mounted on a printed circuit board 38 provided on a rear side of the speaker system 10. In this configuration, speaker system 10 is configured to reproduce both left and right channel audio information from the single speaker.

More particularly, the pair of audio input terminals 34a are electrically coupled to the pair of left channel audio signals 36a of audio source 12 through speaker wires 18a, while audio input terminals 34b are connected to the right channel audio signals 36b through speaker wires 18b. Of course, it will be appreciated that in another embodiment of the present invention, the electrical connection of the left and right channel audio signals 36a, 36b to the audio input terminals 34a, 34b could be reversed without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 2A, the positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34a are electrically coupled through leads 40 to respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 42a of one of the two independent voice coils (not shown) within the dual voice coil woofer 22. A 0.50mH inductor 44 is coupled in the positive (+) lead 40 to provide a first order Butterworth filter with a 6dB/octave roll-off.

The positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34a are also electrically coupled to respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 46 of tweeter 20a of the tweeter pair through leads 48 coupled to leads 40. A fuse 50, 1uF capacitor 52 and 8 ohm resistor 54 are coupled in series in the positive (+) lead 48, and a 0.8mH air core inductor 56 is coupled across the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 46 of tweeter 20a. The capacitor 52 and inductor 54 form a second

order Butterworth filter with a 12dB/octave roll-off. Additionally, the positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34a are electrically coupled to a first pair of terminals 58a of a switch device 59 through leads 60. As will be described in detail below, switch device 59 is

5 preferably a double pole, single throw mechanical switch that may be readily configured by the user to either an "open" (Fig. 2A) or "closed" (Fig. 2B) position depending on the required acoustic capability of the speaker system 10. Of course, other types of mechanical and electrical switches are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the

10 present invention. The in circuit audio input terminals 34a, dual voice coil woofer 22 and tweeter 20a form a first speaker section within speaker system 10 that is shown generally at 62a.

Further referring to Fig. 2A, the positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34b are similarly electrically coupled through

15 leads 64 to respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 42b of the second independent voice coil (not shown) within the dual voice coil woofer 22. A 0.50mH inductor 66 is also coupled in the positive (+) lead 64 to provide a first order Butterworth filter with a 6dB/octave roll-off. The positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34b are also

20 similarly electrically coupled to the respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 68 of the second tweeter 20b of the tweeter pair through

leads 70 coupled to leads 64. A fuse 72, 1uF capacitor 74 and 8 ohm resistor 76 are coupled in series in the positive (+) lead 70, and a 0.8mH air core inductor 78 is coupled across the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals of tweeter 20b. The capacitor 74 and inductor 78 also form a
5 second order Butterworth filter with a 12dB/octave roll-off. Additionally, the positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34b are electrically coupled to a second pair of terminals 58b of the switch device 59 through leads 79. Similarly, the in circuit audio input terminals 34b, dual voice coil woofer 22 and tweeter 20b form a second
10 speaker section within speaker system 10 that is shown generally at 62b. The fuses 50, 72, inductors 44, 56, 66, 78, capacitors 52, 74 and resistors 54, 76 are each mounted on the printed circuit board 38 provided on the rear of speaker system 10.

In the single speaker environment of Figs. 2 and 2A, the
15 switch device 59 is moved by the user to the "open" position as shown in Fig. 2A. In this configuration, left channel audio information from the left channel audio signals 36a is reproduced by one voice coil (not shown) within the dual voice coil woofer 22 and the first independent tweeter 20a, while right channel audio information is simultaneously
20 reproduced by the second voice coil (not shown) within the dual voice coil woofer 22 and the second independent tweeter 20b. Thus, in this

configuration, speaker system 10 is configured to reproduce a complete left and right channel audio program from a single speaker so audio information is not discarded or sacrificed by the speaker system 10 during the sound reproduction. Moreover, the woofer 22 is

5 operable to handle lower frequencies of the audio program with high-fidelity, while the tweeters 20a, 20b are operable to reproduce the higher frequencies of the audio program also with high-fidelity. Thus, the speaker system 10 is operable to reproduce the full frequency spectrum of the audio program generated by the audio source 12

10 without significant distortion.

Referring now to the true stereo acoustic environment illustrated in Figs. 3 and 3A, a pair of speaker systems 10 are coupled to the audio source 12 to independently reproduce right and left channel audio information along separate right and left audio axes. However,

15 in this user selected second configuration, one speaker system 10 is coupled to the left channel audio signals 36a of audio source 12, while the other speaker system 10 is independently coupled to the right channel audio signals 36b of audio source 12. As shown in Fig. 3A, the left speaker system 10 is coupled to the left channel audio signals 36a

20 through the pair of speaker wires 18a, and the right channel audio signals 36b of audio source 12 are coupled independently to the right

speaker system 10 through the pair of speaker wires 18b (Fig. 3). For true stereo environments, the switch device 59 in each speaker system 10 is moved by the user to the "closed" position as shown in Fig. 3A.

In this configuration, left channel audio information from the left

5 channel audio signals 36a is reproduced in the left speaker system 10 (Figs. 3 and 3A) by both voice coils (not shown) of the dual voice coil woofer 22 and both tweeters 20a, 20b of the left speaker, while right channel audio information is reproduced independently in the right speaker system 10 (Fig. 3) by both voice coils (not shown) of the dual voice coil woofer 22 and both tweeters 20a, 20b of the right speaker.

More particularly, audio input terminals 34a of left speaker system 10 (Figs. 3 and 3A) are electrically coupled to the left channel audio signals 36a of audio source 12. As shown in Fig. 3A, the positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34a are electrically coupled
15 through the leads 40 to respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 42a of one of the two independent voice coils (not shown) within the dual voice coil woofer 22. The positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34a are also electrically coupled to respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 42b of the second independent
20 voice coil (not shown) within the dual voice coil woofer 22 through the leads 40, leads 60 and 79 coupled to the "closed" switch device 59, and

leads 64 coupled to the respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 42b of the second independent voice coil within the dual voice coil woofer 22.

The positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34a are also electrically coupled to respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 46 of tweeter 20a through leads 48 coupled to leads 40. Additionally, the positive (+) and negative (-) audio input terminals 34a are electrically coupled to the respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 68 of the second tweeter 20b of the tweeter pair through leads 40, leads 60 and 79 coupled to the "closed" switch device 59, leads 64, and leads 70 coupled to the respective positive (+) and negative (-) terminals 68 of the second tweeter 20b. It will be appreciated that the right speaker system 10 (Fig. 3) is similarly coupled to the right channel audio signals 36b of audio source 12 so that the right speaker system 10 is operable to reproduce right channel audio information through its dual voice coil woofer 22 and pair of tweeters 20a, 20b as described in detail above in connection with the left speaker system 10. Thus, in this user selected configuration of the right and left speaker systems 10, each right and left speaker is configured to independently reproduce respective left or right channel

audio information so that the pair of speakers 10 provide a true stereo listening environment to the user with high-fidelity.

In the first user selected speaker configuration of Figs. 2 and 2A in which switch device 59 is moved to the "open" position and
5 only a single speaker system 10 is coupled to audio source 12 to simultaneously reproduce both right and left channel audio information from the same speaker, each of the two speaker sections 62a, 62b receives half power from the audio source 12 so that full rated power is delivered to the single speaker system 10 at 16 ohms. However, in the
10 second user selected speaker configuration of Figs. 3 and 3A in which switch device 59 is moved to the "closed" position and a pair of speaker systems 10 are coupled to audio source 12 to independently reproduce both right and left channel audio information, full rated power is delivered to each speaker system 10 at 8 ohms. In this way, the net
15 power delivered to each speaker system 10 is the same regardless of the user selected configuration of the speaker through switch device 59. Thus, the sound pressure level from the speaker system 10 is the same in either of the two user selected configurations of the speaker. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, each speaker
20 system 10 has the following performance characteristics:

Frequency Response: 55-21,000 Hz \pm 3 dB

Sound Pressure Level at 1 Meter with 1 Watt Input: 88 dB \pm 2 dB

Power Handling Capacity: 100 Watts as per Electronic
Industry Association (EIA)
Testing Standard RS-426-A

Impedance: 8 Ohms \pm 15%

Cross-Over Frequency: 3,000 Hz

Woofer Resonant Frequency: 45 Hz

It will thus be appreciated that speaker system 10 in
accordance with the principles of the present invention is well suited to
handle a wide range of audio frequencies and reproduce an audio
program with high-fidelity through the use of the dual voice coil woofer
22 and the pair of tweeters 20a, 20b. In this way, speaker system 10 is
operable to reproduce an audio program without significant distortion
or loss of audio information. Moreover, it will be appreciated that
speaker system 10 is versatile for use in a wide range of acoustic
environments in which a single or multiple speakers may be required.

While the present invention has been illustrated by a
description of various embodiments and while these embodiments
have been described in considerable detail, it is not the intention of the
applicant to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended
claims to such detail. Additional advantages and modifications will

readily appear to those skilled in the art. The invention in its broader aspects is therefore not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus and method, and illustrative example shown and described.

Accordingly, departures may be made from such details without
5 departing from the spirit or scope of applicant's general inventive concept.

Having described the invention, I CLAIM:

5 to at least one of said right and left channel audio signals;

a pair of second audio drivers each operable to produce sound in response to at least one of said right and left channel audio signals;

a first audio signal input adapted to receive one of said
10 right and left channel audio inputs, said first channel audio signal input
being coupled to said first audio driver and further being configured to
be selectively coupled to one or both of said pair of second audio
drivers; and

15 said right and left channel audio inputs, said second audio signal input being coupled to said first audio driver and further being configured to be selectively coupled to one or both of said pair of second audio drivers.

2. The speaker system of claim 1 further comprising a switch device in circuit with said first and second audio signal inputs and said first and second audio drivers.

3. The speaker of claim 2 wherein said switch device is
5 selectively positionable in first and second positions.

4. The speaker of claim 3 wherein in said first position of said switch device, said first audio driver is configured to produce sound in response to both of said right and left channel audio signals, and each of said pair of second audio drivers is configured to produce sound in
5 response to a respective one of said right and left channel audio signals, and further wherein in said second position of said switch device, said first audio driver is configured to produce sound in response to only one of said right and left channel audio signals, and both of said pair of second audio drivers are configured to produce
10 sound in response to said only one of said right and left channel audio signals.

5. The speaker system of claim 1 wherein said first audio driver comprises a dual voice coil audio driver.

6. The speaker of claim 5 wherein said first audio driver comprises a woofer.
7. The speaker system of claim 1 wherein each of said second audio drivers comprises a single voice coil audio driver.
8. The speaker of claim 7 wherein each of said second audio drivers comprises a tweeter.
9. The speaker system of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second audio signal inputs comprises a pair of electrical terminals.
10. The speaker system of claim 9 wherein said switch device comprises a double pole, single throw mechanical switch.

11. A reconfigurable speaker system for producing sound in response to at least one of right and left channel audio signals generated by an audio source, comprising:

5 a first audio driver operable to produce sound in response to at least one of said right and left channel audio signals;

a pair of second audio drivers each operable to produce sound in response to at least one of said right and left channel audio signals; and

10 a switch device in circuit with said first and second audio drivers and being selectively positionable in first and second positions,

wherein in said first position of said switch device, said first audio driver is configured to produce sound in response to both of said right and left channel audio signals, and each of said pair of second audio drivers is configured to produce sound in response to a
15 respective one of said right and left channel audio signals,

and further wherein in said second position of said switch device, said first audio driver is configured to produce sound in response to only one of said right and left channel audio signals, and both of said pair of second audio drivers are configured to produce
20 sound in response to said only one of said right and left channel audio signals.

12. The speaker system of claim 11 wherein said first audio driver comprises a dual voice coil audio driver.

13. The speaker of claim 12 wherein said first audio driver comprises a woofer.

14. The speaker system of claim 11 wherein each of said second audio drivers comprises a single voice coil audio driver.

15. The speaker of claim 14 wherein each of said second audio drivers comprises a tweeter.

16. The speaker system of claim 11 wherein said switch device comprises a double pole, single throw mechanical switch.

17. A reconfigurable speaker system for producing sound in response to at least one of right and left channel audio signals generated by an audio source, comprising:

- 5 a first audio signal input adapted to receive one of said right and left channel audio signals;
- a second audio signal input adapted to receive the other of said right and left channel audio signals;
- a first audio driver coupled to both of said first and second audio signal inputs and operable to produce sound in response to at least one of said right and left channel audio signals;
- 10 a pair of second audio drivers each coupled respectively to at least one of said first and second audio signal inputs and operable to produce sound in response to at least one of said right and left channel audio signals; and
- 15 a switch device in circuit with said first and second audio signal inputs and said first and second audio drivers, and being selectively positionable in first and second positions,
- wherein in said first position of said switch device, said first audio driver is configured to produce sound in response to both of
- 20 said right and left channel audio signals, and each of said pair of

second audio drivers is configured to produce sound in response to a respective one of said right and left channel audio signals,

and further wherein in said second position of said switch device, said first audio driver is configured to produce sound in
5 response to only one of said right and left channel audio signals, and both of said pair of second audio drivers are configured to produce sound in response to said only one of said right and left channel audio signals.

18. The speaker system of claim 17 wherein said first audio driver comprises a dual voice coil audio driver.

19. The speaker of claim 18 wherein said first audio driver comprises a woofer.

20. The speaker system of claim 17 wherein each of said second audio drivers comprises a single voice coil audio driver.

21. The speaker of claim 20 wherein each of said second audio drivers comprises a tweeter.

22. The speaker system of claim 17 wherein each of said first and second audio signal inputs comprises a pair of electrical terminals.

23. The speaker system of claim 22 wherein said switch device comprises a double pole, single throw mechanical switch.

24. A reconfigurable speaker system for producing sound in response to at least one of right and left channel audio signals generated by an audio source, comprising:

5 a first speaker circuit including a woofer and a first tweeter coupled in circuit;

a second speaker circuit including said woofer and a second tweeter coupled in circuit; and

10 a switch device in circuit with said first and second speaker circuits, and being selectively positionable in first and second positions,

wherein in said first position of said switch device, said woofer is configured to produce sound in response to both of said right and left channel audio signals, and each of said first and second tweeters is configured to produce sound in response to a respective
15 one of said right and left channel audio signals,

and further wherein in said second position of said switch device, said woofer is configured to produce sound in response to only one of said right and left channel audio signals, and both of said first and second tweeters are configured to produce sound in response to
20 said only one of said right and left channel audio signals.

25. A method of producing sound in response to at least one of right and left channel audio signals generated by an audio source, comprising:

- mounting a first audio driver and a pair of second audio
- 5 drivers on a support;
- coupling a switch device in circuit with said first and
- second audio drivers;
- configuring said first audio driver to receive at least one of
- said right and left channel audio signals; and
- 10 configuring said pair of second audio drivers to each
- selectively receive one or the other of said right and left channel audio
- signals through actuation of said switch device.

RECONFIGURABLE SPEAKER SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

A reconfigurable speaker system for producing sound in response to at least one of right and left channel audio signals generated by an audio source. The speaker system can be configured by the user to simultaneously reproduce right and left channel audio information from a single speaker, or the speaker system can be configured to reproduce right and left channel audio information independently from a pair of speakers. The speaker system includes a dual voice coil woofer and a pair of independent tweeters. A switch device is provided in circuit with the woofer and pair of tweeters so that in one position of the switch device, the dual voice coil woofer is configured to produce sound in response to both of the right and left channel audio signals, and each tweeter in the tweeter pair is configured to produce sound in response to a respective one of the right and left channel audio signals. In a second position of the switch device, the dual voice coil woofer is configured to produce sound in response to only one of the right and left channel audio signals, and both of the tweeters are configured to produce sound in response to the same right or left channel as the woofer. The speaker system is designed so that the sound pressure level of the speaker is the same in either of the two uses selected configurations.

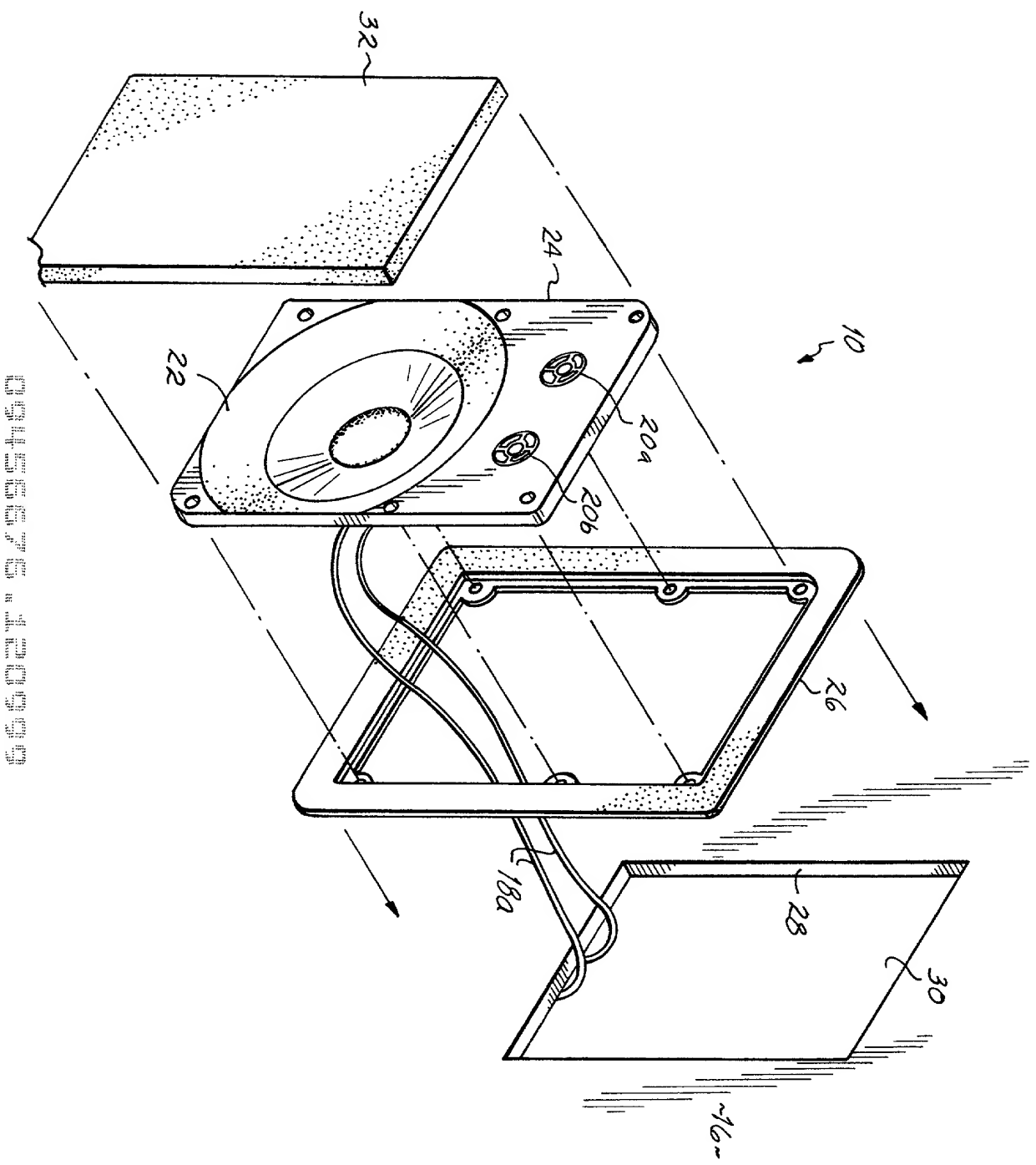


FIG. 1

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FIG. 2

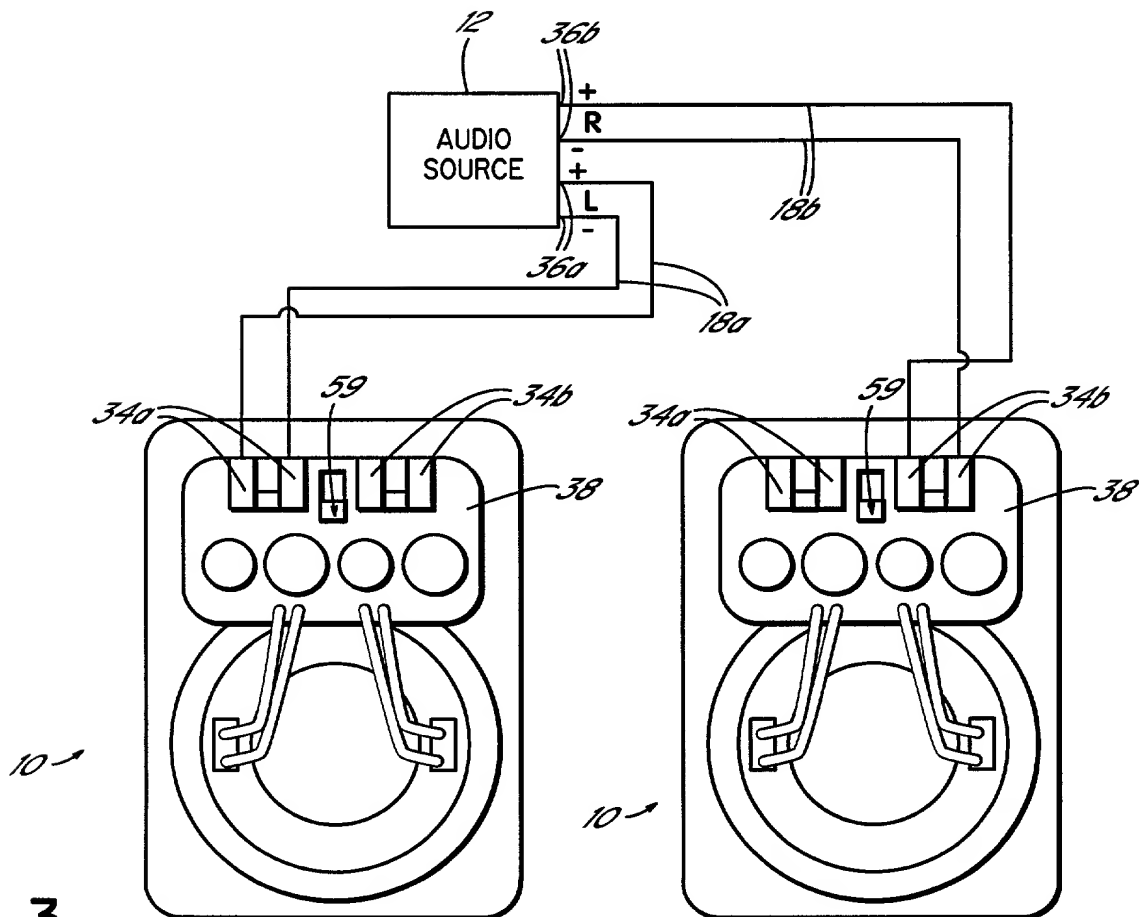
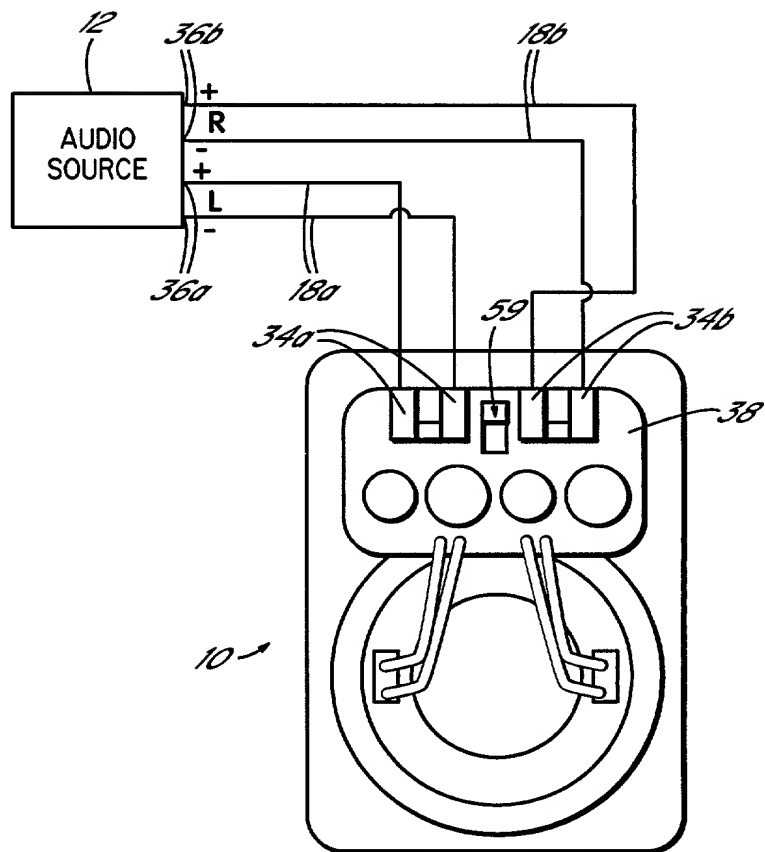
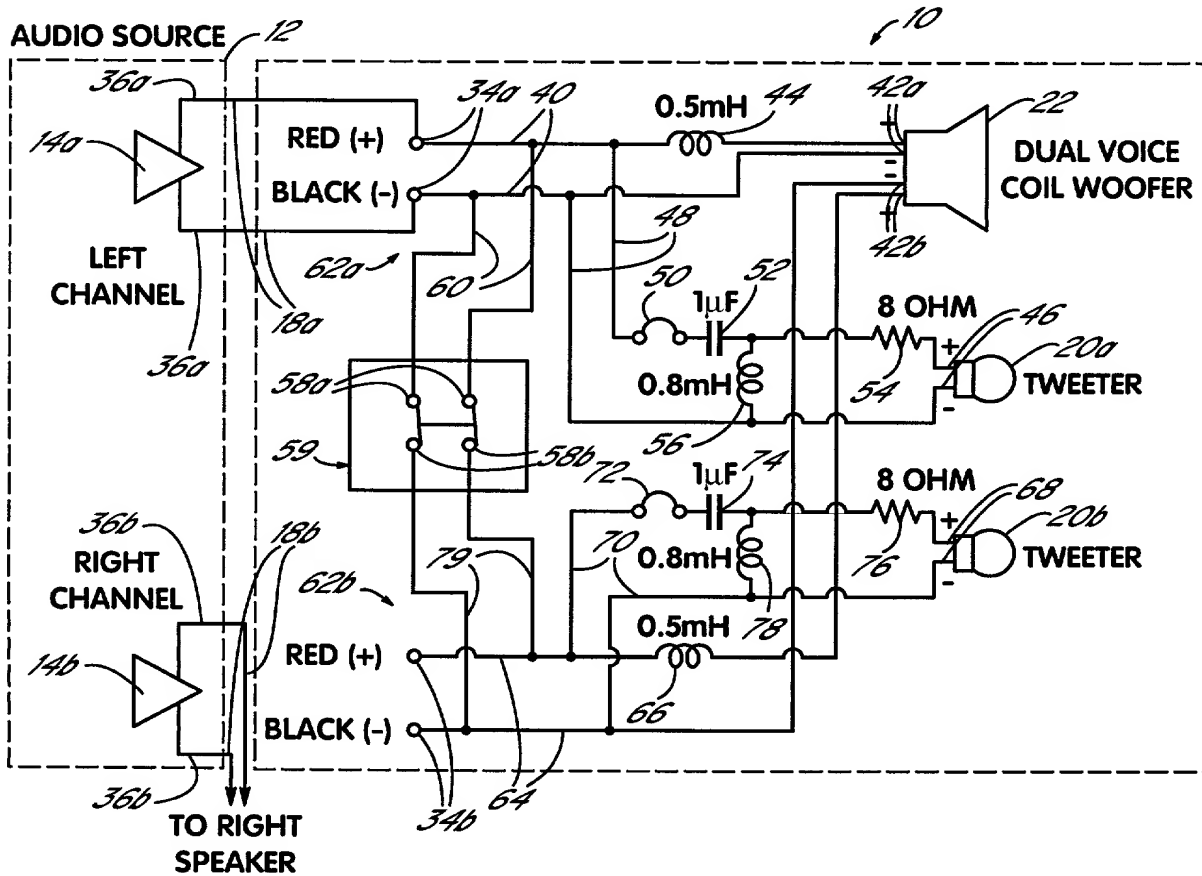
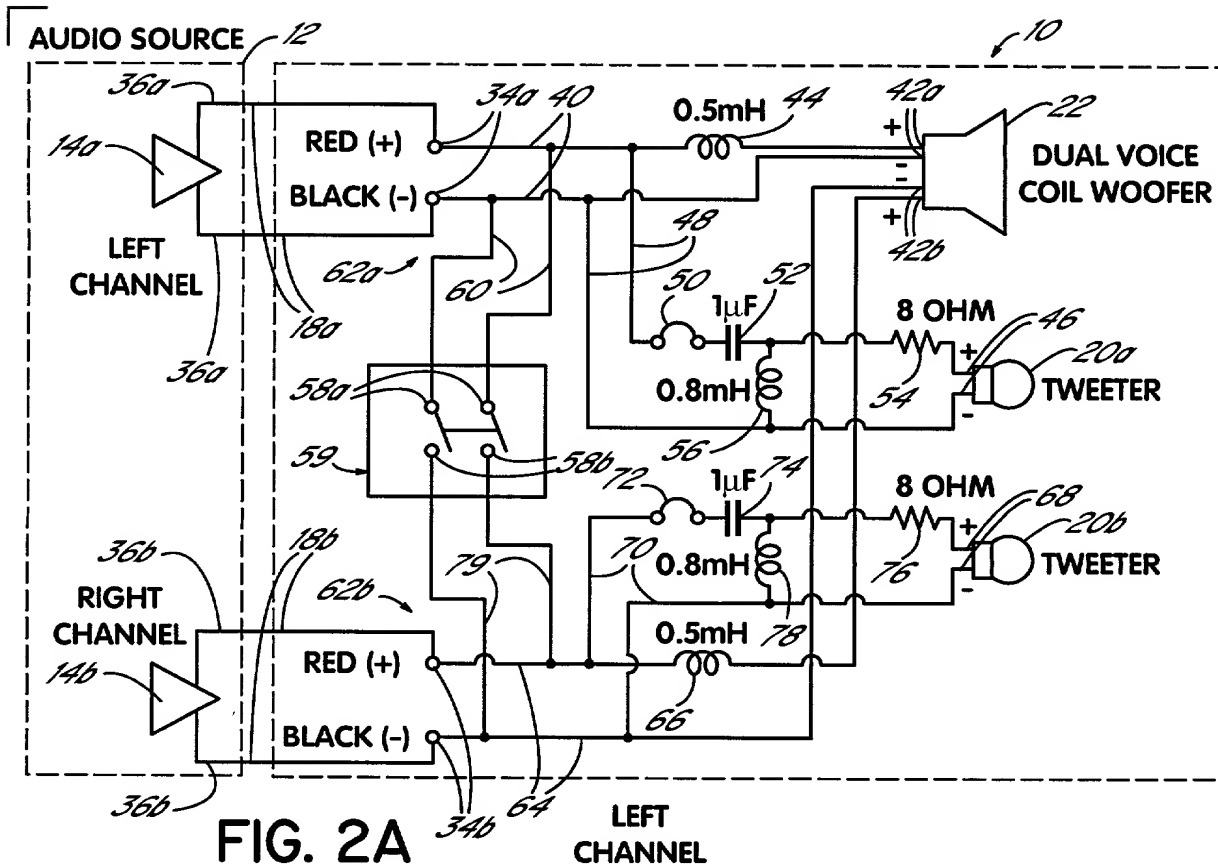


FIG. 3

555021 9295460



DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

RECONFIGURABLE SPEAKER SYSTEM

the specification of which (check one below):

- ☒ is attached hereto.
- ☐ was filed on ___ as Application Serial No. ___ or Express Mail No. ___, and was amended on ___ (if applicable).
- ☐ was filed on ___ as PCT International Application No. ___, and as amended under PCT Article 19 on ___ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed?

_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Day/Month/Year Filed	() Yes () No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Day/Month/Year Filed	() Yes () No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Day/Month/Year Filed	() Yes () No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 and/or §119(e) of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

_____ (Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status: Patented, Pending, or Abandoned)
_____ (Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status: Patented, Pending, or Abandoned)
_____ (Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status: Patented, Pending, or Abandoned)

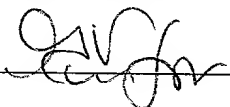
I hereby appoint John D. Poffenberger (R. No. 20,245), Bruce Tittel (R. No. 22,324), Donald F. Frei (R. No. 21,190), David J. Josephic (R. No. 22,849), A. Ralph Navaro, Jr. (R. No. 23,050), David S. Stallard (R. No. 25,930), J. Robert Chambers (R. No. 25,448), Gregory J. Lunn (R. No. 29,945), Kurt L. Grossman (R. No. 29,799), Clement H. Luken, Jr. (R. No. 32,742), Thomas J. Burger (R. No. 32,662), Gregory F. Ahrens (R. No. 32,957), Wayne L. Jacobs (R. No. 35,553), Kurt A. Summe (R. No. 36,023), Kevin G. Rooney (R. No. 36,330), Joseph R. Jordan (R. No. 25,686), C. Richard Eby (R. No. 25,854), Keith R. Haupt (R. No. 37,638), Theodore R. Remaklus (R. No. 38,754), Thomas W. Humphrey (R. No. 34,353), David E. Pritchard (R. No. 38,273), David H. Brinkman (R. No. 40,532), J. Dwight Poffenberger, Jr. (R. No. 35,324), Beverly A. Lyman (R. No. 41,961), Scott A. Stinebruner (R. No. 38,323), Kristi L. Davidson (R. No. 44,643), P. Andrew Blatt (R. No. 44,540), David E. Franklin (R. No. 39,194), Herbert C. Brinkman (R. No. 16,955), all of Wood, Herron & Evans, L.L.P., 2700 Carew Tower, 441 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202-2917, telephone no. (513) 241-2324, my attorneys, with full power

of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Address all correspondence and telephone calls to

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Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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